

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the title of the invention with the following amended title:

~~METHODS, KITS AND COMPOSITIONS PERTAINING TO~~ DETECTION OF NUCLEIC  
ACID USING LINEAR BEACONS

Please replace the paragraph under "Cross Reference to Related Applications"  
with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional application of United States Serial No. 09/950,459 (herein incorporated by reference) filed on September 10, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,649,349, issued November 18, 2003, which is a divisional of United States Serial No. 09/179,162 (herein incorporated by reference) filed on October 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,485,901, issued November 26, 2002, which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/063,283 (herein incorporated by reference) filed on October 27, 1997.